

**In the specification:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

On page 9, please delete the paragraph beginning on line 12 and ending on line 20, and insert the following new paragraph:

B1
In the present invention, both periodic and aperiodic data may be transmitted throughout the network 100. Figure 2 illustrates a timing diagram for accomplishing data transmissions that permits practical implementation of a protocol according to the invention. Signal 240 depicts a signal on backplane bus 168. Signal 200 represents a signal on network databus 114. As shown, signals 200 and 240 share the same time axis 206. One complete transmission cycle 245 of a signal 200 on the network databus 114 includes a synchronization interval 201, a periodic data interval 202, as well as an aperiodic data interval 204.
